

1-11-2012

We Are...Marshall, January 11, 2012

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Recommended Citation

Office of Marshall University Communications, "We Are...Marshall, January 11, 2012" (2012). *We Are ... Marshall: the Newsletter for Marshall University*. Paper 405.
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Marshall University Maintains Prestigious AACSB accreditation for College of Business and Accounting Department



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[Read more.](#)

Play based on fictional meeting between King, Malcolm X takes place Jan. 16



In honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Marshall University's Department of Multicultural Affairs is presenting "The Meeting," an acclaimed play that depicts a fictional meeting between two of the strongest voices of the civil rights movement, King and Malcolm X, at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16.

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[Read more.](#)

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Marshall University has received a \$100,000 gift from Allied Realty Company to support the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

Including the donation, which was announced yesterday, Allied Realty Company has contributed a total of \$350,000 over the past four years to benefit research at the institute.

[Read more.](#)

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Representatives from CSX Corporation have presented a gift of \$25,000 to Marshall University for rail research conducted by the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI), a National University Transportation Center based at Marshall.

[Read more.](#)

Fruth Pharmacy establishes scholarship for Marshall School of Pharmacy



The Fruth Pharmacy Scholarship for Marshall's School of Pharmacy has been established through a \$15,000 gift donated by the Mason County family-owned business.

[Read more.](#)

Newsletter Contest: Where's This?



One winner will be drawn from the correct answers to the question of where or what is in this Marshall-related photograph.

Marshall students, faculty, staff and alumni are eligible.

Send your entries to weargreen@marshall.edu. Entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 17. Entries must have the answer and the entering person's name, affiliation (to Marshall), phone number and mailing address.

[Click to view larger version of the contest photo.](#)

Win two "We Are . . . Marshall" Kelly green shirts!



Mr. and Ms. Marshall are shown in the Kelly green shirts that will be given to one lucky winner, as well as two tickets for a home men's basketball game.

Contest Results from the Dec. 14 Issue



Sorry, there was no winner in the last issue. No one correctly identified the reflection of the floor of the Marshall University Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Association.

MU Foundation annual report wins CASE award



Marshall University Foundation's 2009-2010 annual report, titled "Words to Live By," has been selected for a Gold Award in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Accolades Awards program.

[Read more.](#)

Other News

Classified Staff Election results announced

Winners of the recent Classified Staff Council special election to fill three vacant seats on the Council have been announced.

[Read more.](#)

More than 1000 children's books collected in holiday drive

The Information Technology Department wants to thank the Marshall community for their help in collecting 1,000 books which were distributed by the Salvation Army to area children during the holiday season.

[Read more.](#)

Engineering scholarship to honor McCaskey, first program head

A scholarship honoring the first head of the Marshall University Engineering program has been established in his name by members of his family.

[Read more.](#)

Call for singers

The Marshall University Choral Union invites interested singers to join for the spring 2012 semester. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Smith Music Hall Room 150. This spring, the choir will perform music of Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Rutter, as well as an array of opera choruses in conjunction with the MU Opera Theater.

[Read more.](#)

Marshall University assists Mount View High School with solar panel installation project

The Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall are partnering with the West Virginia Division of Energy (WVDOE) Office of Coalfield Community Development on a project to

The project is just one of several the groups are cooperating on to demonstrate renewable energy applications on surface-mined properties.

[Read more.](#)

install a solar panel system at Mount View
High School near Welch.

Profile: Karen Fischer

- a series on interesting Marshall University people



Her iPhone has more memory and functions than the first computer she worked on during her undergraduate days as a Marshall computer technology major.

Karen Fischer can laugh now about the cumbersome and sluggish machines she once considered state-of-the-art technology.

[Read more.](#)

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed Jan. 25, 2012. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by Jan. 23.



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AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in both business and accounting.

President Stephen J. Kopp said this endorsement from AACSB means that the College of Business and its Accounting Department underwent a rigorous review, satisfied a number of demanding standards and demonstrated evidence of ongoing improvement.

"I'm proud of our College of Business faculty, staff, students and advisory board for their commitment to meeting or exceeding the standards set forth by the AACSB," Kopp said.

"This point-in-time distinction speaks well of both our College of Business and its Accounting Division. It also signals the importance of elevating our expectations and pursuing an even greater commitment to advancing evidence-based outcomes that distinguish our business programs as among the best in the world."

Marshall is one of two institutions in West Virginia to hold AACSB accreditation. As of December 2011, only 643 schools of business worldwide are AACSB accredited and only 176 institutions have AACSB's additional accounting accreditation.

To maintain business accreditation, programs undergo a rigorous internal review every five years, at which they must demonstrate a continued commitment to the 21 quality standards relating to faculty qualification, strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students, as well as a commitment to continuous improvement and achievement of learning goals in degree programs.

To maintain accounting accreditation, an institution must first earn or maintain AACSB Business Accreditation as well as meet an additional 15 standards that are specific to the discipline and profession of accounting.

Dr. Chong Kim, dean of the College of Business, said he is extremely pleased with the outcome of the recent five-year review and is honored to serve as the dean of an AACSB-accredited school.

"Our faculty, staff, students and advisory board members worked hard to make this happen with strong support from President Stephen Kopp and Provost Gayle Ormiston," Kim said. "I believe our College of Business and our Accounting Division provide a world-class business education to our students. Current business students, our alumni, community leaders and all West Virginians should be proud of this accomplishment."

Dr. Jeffrey J. Archambault is head of the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment at Marshall. He was equally pleased with the result of the strict AACSB review.

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In reality the meeting never actually took place, but if it had the conjecture is that two of the most important men of their time would have engaged in an ardent and heartfelt debate on the struggle for equal rights in the 1960s.

In honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Marshall University's Department of Multicultural Affairs is presenting "The Meeting," an acclaimed play that depicts a fictional meeting between two of the strongest voices of the civil rights movement, King and Malcolm X, at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on

Marshall's Huntington campus. The event is free and open to the public.

"The Meeting" takes place in a Harlem, N.Y., hotel room where the two civil rights leaders, both of whom would soon be felled by assassins' bullets, meet for a spirited debate about the era's civil rights struggle. Differing in philosophy, but alike in mutual respect for each other, the play explores the clash of wills and conflicting beliefs which both men honor in the other but cannot accept in themselves.

As part of the program, approximately 14 Marshall University undergraduate members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will play tribute to the women of the civil rights movement, specifically the wives of the two men, Coretta Scott King and Dr. Betty Shabazz. During the program sorority members will acknowledge and highlight the roles Coretta King and Shabazz played in the civil rights movement.

In addition, the Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus, headquartered in Charleston, W.Va., will perform. The highly regarded chorus has performed for events around the state including the nationally televised memorial service for U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd and the West Virginia House of Delegates opening.

"We want this to be an evening of something unique that will engage and educate as well as entertain," said Mary Clark, coordinator in Marshall's Department of Multicultural Affairs.

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Annual FluteWorks to feature principal flutist of West Virginia Symphony Orchestra



Lindsey Goodman, principal flutist of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, will be the guest artist for the Department of Music's annual FluteWorks from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in the Jomle Jazz Center.

"As always, there will be lots of playing for all participants throughout the day at FluteWorks," said Dr. Wendell Dobbs, professor of flute, who is coordinating the event. "Mark your calendars and don't miss this day of truly extraordinary flute playing."

The event is designed for all flutists from Grade 6 through college level, Dobbs said. Cost is \$20 per participant, payable at the registration Jan. 21. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

Highlighting the morning will be a master class conducted by Goodman, at which several student flutists will play.

Other activities during the day will include rehearsals for the Thunder Flute Ensemble, made up of FluteWorks participants; a performance of electroacoustic music by Goodman, and a performance of Lowell Liebermann's flute and guitar sonata by Dobbs and Júlio Alves, assistant professor of guitar at Marshall. The closing concert, featuring

the Thunder Flute Ensemble, will take place at 4 p.m. at the Jomle Jazz Center.

Goodman will also perform at Marshall at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, in Smith Music Hall on the Huntington campus, with pianist Robert Frankenberry. The two artists make up a duo called "Chrysalis," which is named for a work composed by Gilda Lyons that they commissioned and which will be performed Jan. 19.

For further information on FluteWorks, contact Dobbs by e-mail at dobbs@marshall.edu or by phone at ext.6-2359.

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Marshall University has entered into an agreement that allows business majors who have earned associate degrees from Kanawha Valley Community and Technical College to seamlessly transfer those credits to Marshall in pursuit of bachelor's degrees, according to Dr. Rudy Pauley, associate vice president for Outreach and Continuing Studies.

President Stephen J. Kopp and Kanawha Valley CTC President Joseph Badgley signed 2+2 Articulation Agreements to benefit students in the fields of Accounting, Finance,

Management, Management Information Systems, and Marketing. The signing took place in Old Main.

President Kopp said he is "quite pleased" to provide these degree options to students from Kanawha Valley CTC.

"Certainly, this partnership is a win-win for the business programs at both institutions, but more importantly, it's a win-win for the students," Kopp said. "We warmly welcome our Kanawha Valley CTC transfer students into the Marshall University family. I encourage them all to participate fully in all that we have to offer here on the Huntington campus - from student organizations to collegiate sporting events."

According to the official agreement, the deans of both programs will continually monitor the curriculum at both institutions to ensure consistency and program quality. Students who hold an A.A.S. degree at Kanawha Valley will earn a B.B.A. from Marshall by fulfilling their final two years of coursework on the Huntington campus. Once at Marshall, transfer students are a part of the Marshall University College of Business.

President Badgley said the Business Studies faculty at Kanawha Valley CTC, especially Dean Megan Lorenz, has developed a very positive working relationship with their counterparts at Marshall University. He said both groups are dedicated to providing transfer students the opportunity to succeed and pursue their education beyond completion of the associate's degree.

"I believe this relationship with Marshall University is just the beginning for Kanawha Valley CTC students wishing to complete a bachelor's degree," Badgley said. "The response from our students when they first learned of this agreement has been overwhelming. Many of our students are first generation and lack confidence in their ability to succeed when they first begin at KVCTC. To know that upon completion of their associate degree they can attend Marshall University and complete a baccalaureate degree from a nationally accredited program is beyond what many thought possible when they first began college."

Badgley added that this agreement provides benefit to both institutions.

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"Marshall University gets transfer students who are already performing at a high level and Kanawha Valley CTC students have the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree from nationally accredited programs at Marshall University," Badgley said. "I foresee this as a fruitful and beneficial partnership for both institutions and the first of what I hope will be many more to come."

Photo: President Stephen J. Kopp, left, and Kanawha Valley CTC President Joseph Badgley sign 2+2 Articulation Agreements in Dr. Kopp's office in Old Main.

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Employed for more than 10 years, she was nominated by Dr. Glenn Anderson, Karen Barker, Terri Moran, Dr. John Schloss, Dr. Robert Stanton, Dr. Kevin Yingling, and Dr. Kim Broedel-Zaugg, all of the School of Pharmacy.

In their nomination they wrote, "Holly has been an invaluable resource as we work to develop the new School of Pharmacy. Even though she is employed by

the School of Medicine, she has gone above and beyond her assigned duties to assist us with our technological needs and questions, including traveling to the Medical Education Building from the main campus when needed, answering questions, installing and troubleshooting computers, providing guidance on the most appropriate equipment to purchase and more...and she does it all with confidence, patience and a contagiously positive outlook. She interacts with everyone in a friendly, yet professional manner that enables her to get to the root of the problem quickly and to work out solutions that are both effective and efficient."

And, they continue, "Without Holly's assistance, we at the School of Pharmacy would not be able to function effectively; therefore she has had an extremely significant impact on our program and the university. Regardless of her assignment within the university structure she has become a part of the MUSOP team and we are so appreciative of her guidance and assistance."

The nomination concludes, "In addition she is a valuable member of the Information Technology team at the School of Medicine and demonstrates the same commitment to excellence in meeting her responsibilities to their students, staff and faculty."

Simpkins was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100 by President Stephen J. Kopp.

Photo: Holly Simpkins (right) receives her Employee of the Month award from President Kopp.

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Including the donation, which was announced yesterday, Allied Realty Company has contributed a total of \$350,000 over the past four years to benefit research at the institute.

The company's latest donation is expected to be matched through the state's "Bucks for Brains" West Virginia Research Trust Fund. The previous years' gifts have already been matched, for a cumulative benefit to Marshall of \$700,000.

Allied Realty Company President Rebecca Polan said the institute's role of conducting commercially viable bioscience research at the university and facilitating partnerships with outside companies is vital to the future of Huntington and the entire region.

"Huntington is a special community, and we are proud to call it home - not only for our family of companies - but for many of our employees, partners, clients, friends and family as well," she said. "Our primary focus is on Marshall University, which we consider to be the gateway organization for improving the Tri-State's economy by educating our citizens for the knowledge economy."

"We are directing our focus to help Marshall expand its role as a research institution, which can transform us from a manufacturing center into a world class generator of intellectual property."

President Stephen J. Kopp thanked the company for its contribution, saying, "Allied Realty Company has once again shown incredible support for the important work being done at the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research. I salute Rebecca Polan and everyone at Allied for recognizing the institute's growing role in advancing local and regional economic development. We are indeed fortunate to have Allied as a corporate citizen and benefactor in our community."

Dr. Ron Area, chief executive officer of the Marshall University Foundation Inc., added, "We are once again in the pleasant position of extending appreciation to Allied Realty Company for another generous contribution to support research at Marshall. This is a significant gift and one that will continue to benefit the university and the community for years to come."

Allied Realty Company is the corporate hub for a full-service global logistics business with more than 2.5 million square feet of commercial, manufacturing and distribution holdings in downtown Huntington, Kenova, Nitro and Parkersburg; Paris, Ky.; and Waynesboro and Harrisonburg, Va.

The Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research was founded in 2008 with the goal of developing a focused program of pioneering research dedicated to producing patentable scientific breakthroughs and creating new high-tech businesses based on those discoveries.

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RTI Director and CEO Robert H. "Bob" Plymale and Marshall University Foundation Vice President for Development Lance West accepted the check from CSX Executive Vice President and COO David Brown and CSX Regional Vice President of Public Affairs J. Randolph Cheetham.

"This is CSX's third donation for rail research at RTI and MU," Plymale said. "This contribution demonstrates CSX's commitment to helping RTI advance the rail industry through research initiatives that include technology testing, research and development for asset mapping and inspections; train, car and mobile worker tracking, and intelligent grade crossings."

CSX Corporation, based in Jacksonville, Fla., is one of the nation's leading transportation companies, providing rail, intermodal and rail-to-truck transload services..

RTI is a leader in multimodal transportation and economic development. RTI is a National University Transportation Center recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation for transportation excellence focused on applied technology, research, education, outreach and training.

Photo: Robert H. "Bob" Plymale, center, and Lance West, right, accept a check for \$25,000 from CSX Executive Vice President and COO David Brown in a ceremony at the Arthur Welsberg Family Engineering Laboratories.

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The recipients of the renewable award will be full-time students who have completed two years of pre-pharmacy prerequisites with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and have applied and enrolled in the pharmacy program.

Tracy Straub, program director of scholarships and donor relations with MU's development office,

said that to qualify for the scholarship, potential recipients must be from Mason, Cabell, Kanawha, Putnam, Wayne, Roane, Jackson or Wood counties in West Virginia, or Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Lawrence, Athens, Washington or Pike counties in Ohio.

Straub said the students also must have an interest in community pharmacy.

The School of Pharmacy will welcome its inaugural class in fall 2012 and students will be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

For more information, contact Straub at 304-696-6781.

Photo: Lynne Fruth, president and chairman of the board with Fruth Pharmacy, signs the guidelines for the new Fruth Pharmacy Scholarship for the School of Pharmacy as Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp (seated) looks on. Standing are, from left, Dr. Ron Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation Inc., Dr. Kevin Yingling, dean of the School of Pharmacy, Tracy Straub, program director of scholarships and donor relations at Marshall, and Craig Kimble, Pharm.D., Director of Pharmacy for Fruth.

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The Newsletter for Marshall University January 11, 2012

MU Foundation annual report wins CASE award



Marshall University Foundation's 2009-2010 annual report, titled "Words to Live By," has been selected for a Gold Award in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Accolades Awards program.

"We are absolutely thrilled to receive this award by CASE District II in the annual or institutional report category," said Dr. Ronald Area, CEO of the Marshall University Foundation Inc. "This is the first time the Marshall University Foundation has received a gold award in this category, and, in terms of universities of our size, to win the gold for this type of publication is a real accomplishment for our staff."

"We are honored to receive this award," said Kristi Arrowood, Director of Foundation Development and Strategic Programs. "There are some renowned institutions, some of which are recognized world-wide, in our district. To be selected as the best in our category is outstanding."

The University of Guelph, located in Ontario, Canada, received the Silver Award, Buffalo State College received the Bronze Award, and Honorable Mention went to St. Joseph's University. The awards will be presented during the district's annual conference in New York City Jan. 22 to 24.

Among the other schools in District II are Boston College, West Virginia University, Rutgers, Temple, Harvard, Dartmouth, George Washington, Johns Hopkins and Pittsburgh.

Arrowood said the winning piece was a traditional report of the year's activities, including student profiles, donor lists and financial information. They used a theme of four key inspirational, mission-defining words: respect, diversity, pride and integrity, all of which are engraved in the granite medallion in the rotunda of the Marshall University Foundation Hall, Home of the Erickson Alumni Center.

"We were able to tell stories of why our alums, our faculty and our friends have chosen to give back to Marshall University," Arrowood said. "At the same time we featured students who represent those same characteristics, who also are living by those four words. Those words are what we at the foundation strive to live by daily."

Todd Marcum, a Marshall alumnus who is a principal of the advertising agency Access in Roanoke, Va., developed the concept and text for the piece.

"Most of us expanded our understanding of the world and developed principles at Marshall that we take with us throughout life," Marcum said. " 'Words to Live By' seemed like a theme that allowed us to both showcase the beautiful Foundation Hall and talk about the values that make Marshall University great."

According to the CASE website, the organization is "is a professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement professionals who work on their behalf in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas."

"Words to Live By," along with the 2010-2011 annual report, is available online at www.marshall.edu/foundation/annualReport.php.

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Classified Staff Election results announced

Winners of the recent Classified Staff Council special election to fill three vacant seats on the Council have been announced.

The winner from Group 30-- Other Professionals--was Chris Atkins of University College. Winners from Group 50-- Clerical--were LuAnn South from the Department of Communication Studies and Darlene Colegrove from the School of Education.

The three took office on Dec. 23 and will serve until June 30, 2013.

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More than 1000 children's books collected in holiday drive

The Information Technology Department wants to thank the Marshall community for their help in collecting 1,000 books which were distributed by the Salvation Army to area children during the holiday season.

Marshall libraries collected books last fall and offered students, faculty and staff \$2 off library fines per book donated. Though many took advantage to reduce library fines, many others who did not have fines also donated new and gently used books.

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Engineering scholarship to honor McCaskey, first program head

A scholarship honoring the first head of the Marshall University Engineering program has been established in his name by members of his family.

Ambrose E. McCaskey Jr. was hired in 1936 to lead the newly established engineering program at the university. Now his brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Agnes McCaskey, have established the Ambrose E. McCaskey Memorial Scholarship which will be awarded to a full-time engineering student in the College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE).

The recipient will be chosen by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

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Call for singers

The Marshall University Choral Union invites interested singers to join for the spring 2012 semester.

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Smith Music Hall Room 150. This spring, the choir will perform music of Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Rutter, as well as an array of opera choruses in conjunction with the MU Opera Theater, under the leadership of William Murphy, who is pursuing a master's degree at Marshall University.

Performances will take place in February and April. For further information, please contact the Department of Music office at 304-696-3117.

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Marshall University assists Mount View High School with solar panel installation project

The Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall are partnering with the West Virginia Division of Energy (WVDOE) Office of Coalfield Community Development on a project to install a solar panel system at Mount View High School near Welch.

The project is just one of several the groups are cooperating on to demonstrate renewable energy applications on surface-mined properties.

According to George Carlico, project coordinator with the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, who assisted the WVDOE in locating a site where solar panels could be installed for demonstrating this type of renewable energy, Mount View is located on a high ridge—formerly a surface mine site—with extensive “sky-view” well situated for a solar panel array system.

Carlico added that while the project will provide renewable energy to the school in the form of solar energy, its educational aspect is also important.

“While solar panels have been around for a number of years, most people don't fully understand the various aspects, both positive and negative, of this type of renewable energy. At Mount View High School, the students, teachers, parents and members of the community will be getting first-hand knowledge. We'll be educating a wide variety of people about this energy resource.”

The system at Mount View will consist of approximately 22 panels with a total rated output of 5.5 kilowatts, mounted on the school's rooftop, which includes a viewing platform where students, teachers and other interested parties will be able to view the panels up close. The system also will include monitors to evaluate performance, and the results will be incorporated into students' science projects.

Students in the school's Health Sciences and Technology Academy program will use the solar panels to gather data and conduct research about solar energy and ozone levels.

Dr. Tony Szwilski, CEGAS director, said the Mount View initiative, combined with other projects within the CEGAS/WVDOE partnership, illustrate the approach Marshall is taking to evaluate renewable energy resources across West Virginia and to educate the public about their potential.

He added, “This project, along with our other ongoing wind and biomass projects with the WVDOE, demonstrates how we're taking a progressive role in assessing wind, solar and biomass energy resource potential on surface-mined lands. We're pleased to be a key player in this venture.”

A total of \$55,000 in federal and county funding is being provided for the Mount View project, including \$45,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission and \$10,000 from the McDowell County Board of Education. The solar panel system is expected to be installed early this year.

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Profile: Karen Fischer



Her iPhone has more memory and functions than the first computer she worked on during her undergraduate days as a Marshall computer technology major.

Karen Fischer can laugh now about the cumbersome and sluggish machines she once considered state-of-the-art technology. "I worked on my first computer in 1984 and they were completely different. My phone can do so much more than they could then, but I thought they were wonderful," she can recall now with fond nostalgia.

Currently a payroll representative, Fischer was born and brought up in Huntington, so going to Marshall was a given. After graduating in 1989 she spent 20 years working in a family business before heading back to her alma mater—this time for good—she says firmly—and her position in the payroll department.

There aren't many down times in payroll, she admits, and her meticulous attention to detail and finely honed organizational skills have stood her in good stead. "I am very detail oriented, and I double- and triple-check things to make sure they're accurate. I don't hesitate to ask questions or try to find out something that I don't know.

Sometimes I think I've turned into a detective, I'm so detailed," she

says mischievously "We're a big employer; we have strict deadlines and people expect and of course should get complete accuracy. We're here in this office to help people and to answer any questions they may have and to get them help if they need it. One thing that is important, if people see a change on their slips that they don't understand, [they should] contact us and we'll explain it."

Actually Fischer started her academic career as an accounting major, but some perceptive faculty members soon urged her to switch majors. Faculty members have earned high praise from her for their dedication to their students. "When I first began work here, one of my professors, who is still here, came by to see me. I'd been gone for many years, but she remembered me and just wanted to stop by and welcome me back to Marshall. I was really impressed by that."

Her two children still at home—which is a mere ten minutes from campus—she says happily, keep the family busy with their assorted activities. Daughter Karianne is a cheerleader and member of the cross country and track teams at Huntington High School and seven-year-old Ben is an avid baseball player, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his big brother Jacob, an accomplished player who was offered the opportunity to play for Bethany College. Along with her husband Jack, Karen regularly travels to take in their various meets and games. They're particularly proud that Jacob's travel team, the Huntington Patriots, won the World Series in their division, a trip that took them to Florida. Baseball is a big part of their lives, so the family regularly schedules outings to Cincinnati to take in Reds games.

Fitness also is important to the Fischers, so they bowl in a league, "I'm a decent bowler," she says modestly. In fact, she often manages to best her husband and older son. Fischer sees the new Rec Center as a great addition to Marshall. "We're lucky to have it," she believes. In fact Ben recently had a birthday party with his friends there.

She's an optimist who believes in trying to find the upside of things, and approaches her work and people with patient good humor. "There's no sense in bringing yourself down," she says. And she has high praise for not only the staff she works with directly but also for staff and faculty she comes in contact with throughout the university. "The staff here really is a joy to work with, I've found them to be very cooperative. If I call an office and need information I've found

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people go out of their way to help me. I'm very thankful to be back at Marshall where I started so many years ago. I spent 20 years away and now I say I hope to be here for the next 20 years. I think I'll just try to outlast everybody!"

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